Compensation claim by the sufferers of Gulf War

168. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have submitted to the United Nations Compensation Committee, the claim applications of Indians who suffered losses during Gulf War;

(b) if so, the details of compensation sought;

(c) whether a large number of applications for compensation claim still lying pending with Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not sending all applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A total number of about 1.41 lakh claims for asserted value of about US dolalrs 3.5 billion have been forwarded to the UNCC.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, The last date for the Government of India to deposit individual compensation claims of Indian nationals with the UNCC, Geneva was 1.1.94. As such all claims from eligible claimants received upto the first week of December 93 were forwarded to the UNCC well before this deadline. Some claims are even now being received which after scrutiny are being forwarded to the UNCC as late claims. Their eligibility will be determined by UNCC.

Internationalisation of Kashmir issue by Pakistan

169. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is planning to launch another high-level diplomatic campaign to internationalise the Kashmir issue and raise it at the forthcoming U.N. General Assembly Session to be held in September, 1994;

(b) if so, what measures have been taken or contemplated to counter the proposed move of the Pakistan Government; and

(c) whether Government proposed to prepare any report to show how Pakistan, through its outfit of Inter Services Intelligence, has been formulating and implementing schemes to destabilise India through terrorism and subversion from 1988 onwards, taking particular advantage of the resources siphoned off by it from the funds and weapons made available by the United States during the war in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is constantly monitoring the situation. We have kept member states of the United Nations fully apprised of our perspective on the Kashmir issue.

(c) Government have regularly collated information on and have published the evidence of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist violence in India.

Fresh talks between Bangladesh and India on Chakma refugees

170. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to hold a fresh dialogue with Bangladesh to sort out the problem over resuming the repatriation of tribal refugees shattered in South Tripura camps;

(b) whether the talks with Bangladesh Government on this issue held so far proved any positive results;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of Bangladeshi refugees as on date in the country; and

(e) by when they all are likely to be repatriated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) In continuation of recent discussions between India and Bangladesh, a meeting between chakma refugee leaders and Bangaladesh authorities was arranged at Ramgarh (Bangladesh) on June 30, 1994. At this meeting, it was agreed to schedule the commencement of the second phase of repatriation from July 21, 1994 during which nearly 3800 refugees would return. Earlier, a total of 1854 refugees returned to Bangladesh in February, 1994.

(d) The total number of refugees now staying in Tripura is approximately 54,000.

(e) while we favour speedy repatriation of all Bangladeshi refugees in full safety and dignity, it is difficult, to indicate the date of completion of repatriation at this stage.

Visit of heads of foreign stes/Governments to India

171. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of visits of Heads of States and Heads of Governments and other dignitaries from various countries who visited India from December, 1992 to June, 1994.

(b) the brief details of the subjects discussed by the Government with them, visit-wise;

(c) whether any agreements and treaties have been reached during these visits;

(d) if so, the details thereof, visit-wise; and

(e) the details of the Heads of States and Heads of the Governments likely to visit India by the end of December, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): A list showing visits of Heads of State/Government and Foreign Ministers from various countries to India from December 1992 to June 1994 is at Annexure-I. [See Appendix 171, Annexure No. 4]

(b) to (d) The information is as per Annexure-II. [See Appendix 171, Annexure No. 4].

(e) Not yet finalised. However, the following visit has taken place in July:

July 7-8, 1994—His Excellency Mr Jozef Moravcik, Prime Minister of Slovak.

Indo-China joint working group

172. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the 7th Session of the Indo-China Joint working Group (JWG) held in Beijing earlier this month;

(b) to what extent it contributed to the improvement of Indo-China relations and implementation of confidence building measures between the two countries;

(c) whether during the visit to China, the Foreign Secretary also made efforts to resolve bilateral, regional and international issues through foreign offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) During the 7th meeting of